

MARVEL
COMICS

X-MEN®

SEPT '96 105

ONSLAUGHT
IMPACT 2

SPECIAL
HEROES REBORN
UPDATE INSIDE!



WOLVERINE

INTO THE
FIRE

DIRECT EDITION



\$1.95 US \$2.75 CAN

WISSE 98
PANOS/AN

IT WAS MAGNETO,
WHO DID IT...

INFECTED OL' CHARLIE
XAVIER WITH SOME PIECE
O' HIMSELF THAT BROUGHT
OUT THE DARK SIDE OF
THE PROFESSOR --

"TURNIN'
HIM INTO
ONSLAUGHT."

KEEP
IT COMIN',
BOYS!

I
NEED TO
BE SOAKED
FOR THIS
WORK!

NOW IT'S UP TO THE X-MEN,
THE FANTASTIC FOUR AND
THE AVENGERS TO STOP THE
MOST POWERFUL PSI-TALENT
ON THE PLANET --

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... AN EVIL TWISTO
WHO SAYS HE'S
GONNA PUNISH
HUMANITY!

I THINK I GOTTA LEAVE THE
HEAVY ACTION TO THE BOYS
AND GIRLS WHO CAN LIFT
CEMENT TRUCKS WITH THEIR
BRAINS AND SHOOT BEAMS
OUTTA THEIR EYES.

I THINK THE OL'
CANUCKIEHEAD IS
BETTER SUITED TO
CLEANIN' UP THE
COLLATERAL
DAMAGE.

TRAVERSE
THAT LADDER!
THERE'S A KID
UP THERE!

Larry Hama

SCRIPT **Val Semelk**
PENCILS

Chad Hunt

with V. Russell

& H. Candelario

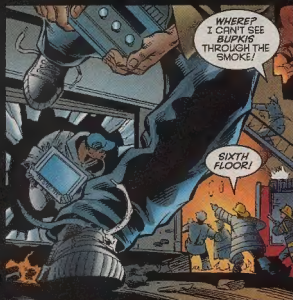
Richard Starkings and Comcraft
LETTERS

**Chris Lichtner &
Joe Andreani**
COLORS

Malibu
ENHANCEMENT

Bob Harris
EDITOR AND CHIEF

**FACES IN
THE FIRE**





JUST HOPE
IT WAS
ENOUGH!



WHUP
WHUP
JUST
BARELY!



HEY,
KID!
WHERE YA
RUNNIN' OFF
TO?
YA
GOTTA HELP
ME FIND MR.
WINKY!



COME ON,
SEAN --

SNIFF!



HARD
TRACKIN' A
SCENT IN THIS
SMOKE, BUT THE
OL' SNIFFER IS
STILL UP TO
IT!



SEAN --!

-- WE
GOTTA BOOK
OUTTA HERE,
YOUR MOM IS
WAITIN' ON
YA!



YOU'RE
NOT A
FIREMAN!

MY
MOMMY TOLD ME
NEVER TO TALK TO
STRANGERS!

HOW
COME YOU
GOT A
MASK?

YOUR
MOMMY WAS RIGHT.
BUT I'M WEARIN' A
MASK 'CAUSE I'M A
SUPER HERO...



...AND
YOUR MOMMY
TOLD ME YOU
CAME BACK FOR
MR. WINKY.

IS
MR. WINKY
SOMEWHERE IN THE
APARTMENT?

IS
HE AN OLD
MAN?



Mr.
WINKY IS
A BEAR,
SILLY!

HE
MUST BE
PRETTY SPECIAL
FOR YOU TO COME
BACK FOR HIM.
HUH?



UH-HUH!

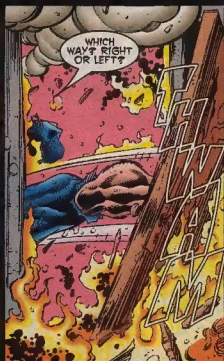
LET'S
GET YOU
BOTH OUTTA
HERE!





WHERE'S
THE FIRE STAIRS,
SEAN?

OUT
IN THE
HALL!



WHICH
WAY? RIGHT
OR LEFT?



THAT
WAY! NO --

-- I MEAN
THAT WAY --
I DON'T KNOW,
MISTER!



ARE
WE GONNA DIE,
MISTER?

WE'RE
SUPER HEROES.
SEAN. WE CAN'T
DIE!



I'M NOT A
SUPER HERO,
SILLY!

WE
CAN FIX
THAT...



THERE.
YOU GOT THE
MASK. YOU'RE
THE HERO.





IT'S
GETTIN'
HOTTER!

USUALLY
DOES WHEN
YA GETS
CLOSER TO
A FIRE.

WHU?

YOU'RE
LEADIN' US
THROUGH THE
FIRE?

THIS
IS THE ONLY
WAY OUT. YOU
COMIN' OR
NOT?

LISTEN UP,
SEAN --

-- GONNA
COVER YA UP
WITH THIS WET
SHIRT.

YOU TAKE A DEEP
BREATH THROUGH
THE WET CLOTH
AND HOLD IT.
OKAY?

OKAY!

YOU
HANG ON
TIGHT. AND YOU
DON'T WORRY
NONE --

-- 'CAUSE
I'M GONNA GET
YOU OUT O'
THIS!

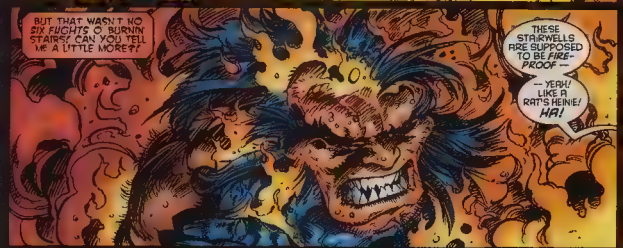
THAT'S A
PROMISE!



I BEEN THROUGH
THIS BEFORE --

-- WHEN I PULLED ELSIE
DEE FROM THAT BURNING
WAREHOUSE IN VENICE,
CALIFORNIA.

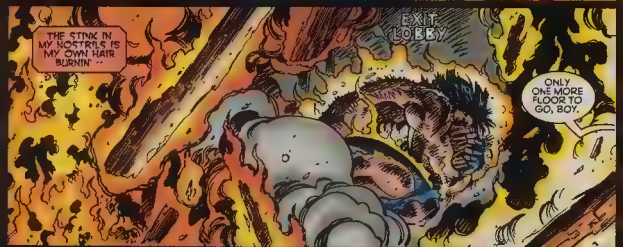
YOU
BETTER PUT
A MOVE ON, OR
YOU ARE LOOKIN'
AT BAGUETTE
CITY!



BUT THAT WASN'T NO
SIX FIGHTS O' BURNIN'
STAIRS! CAN YOU TELL
ME A LITTLE MORE?!

THESE
STAIRWELLS
ARE SUPPOSED
TO BE FIRE-
PROOF --

-- YEAH!
LIKE A
RAT'S HEINIE!
HA!



THE STINK IN
MY NOSTRILS IS
MY OWN HAIR
BURNIN' --

EXIT
LOBBY

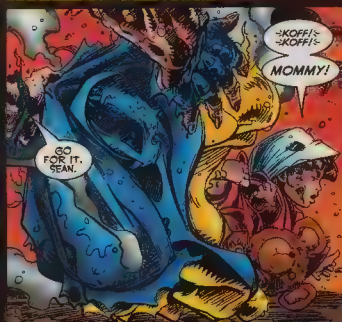
ONLY
ONE MORE
FLOOR TO
GO, BOY.



-- AND THAT
CRACKLIN' SOUND
IS MY BODY
FAT SIZZLIN'!

HANG
TOUGH,
SEAN --!

-- WE'RE
IN THE HOME
STRETCH!





CAN'T
SHOOT BEAMS
OUTTA MY
EYES --



-- BUT
WHAT I
GOT --



-- IS
A MUTANT
HEAVEN
FACTOR!



SURE
WISH I HAD A
PAIN SUPPRESSION
FACTOR BUILT IN,
THOUGH!



YOU'RE
SOME KIND
OF HERO,
MISTER...

NOSSIR.

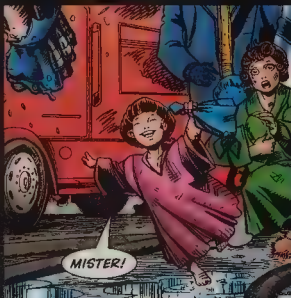
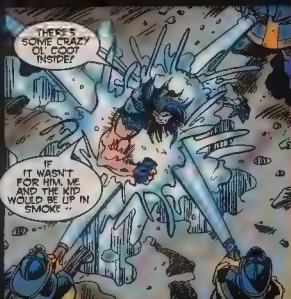
A HERO
IS A GUY WHO
DOES THIS JOB
EVERY DAY --



-- LIKE
YOU, BUB.

NOW,
WET ME DOWN
AGAIN!

YOU'RE
NOT GOING
BACK IN
THERE?





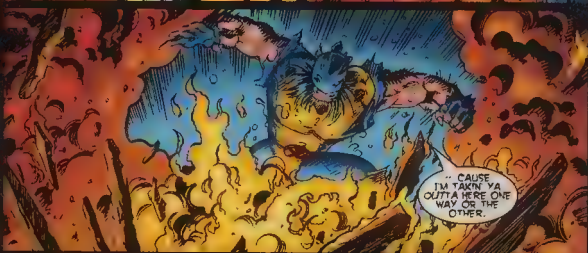
WHERE
ARE YA, OLD
MANT?

THIS
WHOLE PLACE
IS GONNA COME
DOWN, ANY
MINUTE!

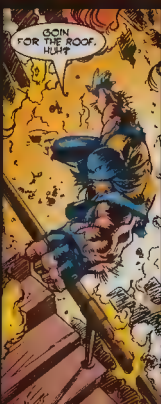


GLUTTON FER
PUNISHMENT,
AIN'T YA?

YA
MIGHT AS WELL
COME DOWN NICE
AND EASY --



-- CAUSE
I'M TAKIN YA
OUTTA HERE ONE
WAY OR THE
OTHER.



GOIN
FOR THE ROOF,
HUNT!



THAT
JUST MAKES
IT A LOT
SIMPLER!



GAME'S
OVER, OLD
MANT! TIME
TO --



THWACK



YOU
GONNA CLAW
ME UP? I THOUGHT
YOU WUZ HERE
TO RESCUE
MEP



THAT'S
WHAT I AIM TO
DO. YA CRAZY OL'
COOT. EVEN IF I HAVE
TO DRAG YOU OUT
UNCONSCIOUS!

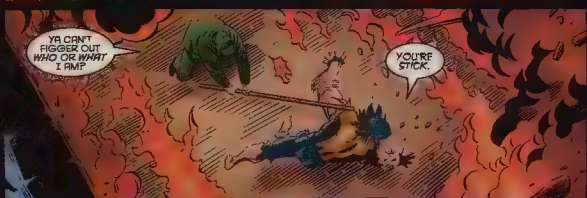
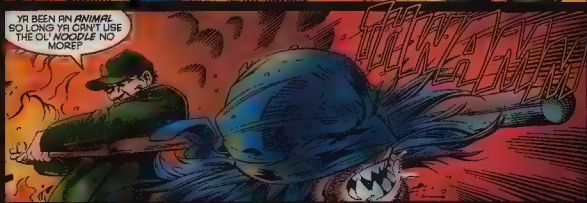
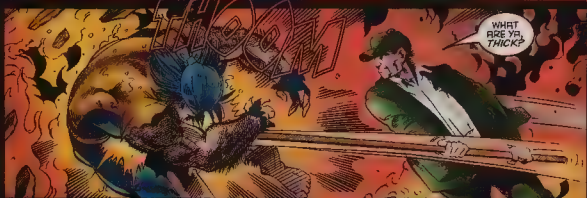


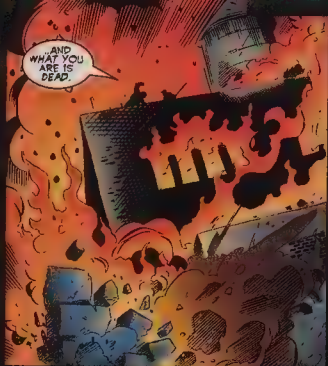
I MAY
BE A LOT O'
THINGS, BUT
CRAZY AINT
ONE OF
THEM ---

--- AND
WHAT MAKES
YOU THINK YOU
CAN KNOCK
ME OUT?



LISTEN.
BUB. YOU'RE
GETTIN' SAVED
WHETHER YOU
LIKE IT OR
NOT!







IS
THAT WHY YOU
AINT COUNTER-
ATTACKING?

BECAUSE
THERE AINT NO
USE IN ATTACKIN'
A GHOST?

YOU
AINT NO
GHOST,
EITHER.

YOU'RE
LIKE SOMETHIN'
VIBRATIN' ON
ANOTHER PLANE --



-- LIKE
MAYBE YA GOT
TO THIS STATE
BEFORE YOU
DIED!

NOW
AINT THAT
ASTUTE!

BUT WE
AINT HERE TO
DISCUSS MY STATE
OF BEIN' AS
IT WERE.

NO,
THAT AINT
OUR BUSINESS
HERE AT
ALL!



I KNOW
THAT.

YOU'RE
HERE TO
PUT THE FINAL
POLISH ON WHAT
ELEKTRA DID
TO ME --

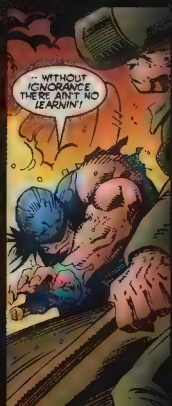


-- PUT
ME BACK THE
WAY I WAS, MAKE
ME A MAN
AGAIN --

-- MAKE
ME UNDERSTAND
THAT WITHOUT
HUMILITY, THERE
AINT NO
PRIDE --



-- WITHOUT
FEAR THERE
AINT NO
BRAVERY --



-- WITHOUT
IGNORANCE
THERE AINT NO
LEARNIN'!



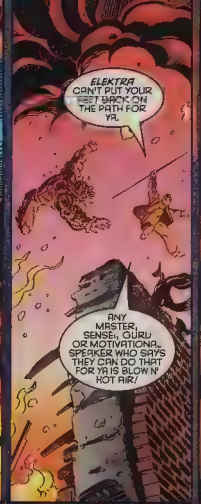
WHAT AM
I, THE TRAVELING
VENDICANT SCHOOL
TEACHER?

I CAN'T
TEACH YOU
ANY O' THAT
STUFF!



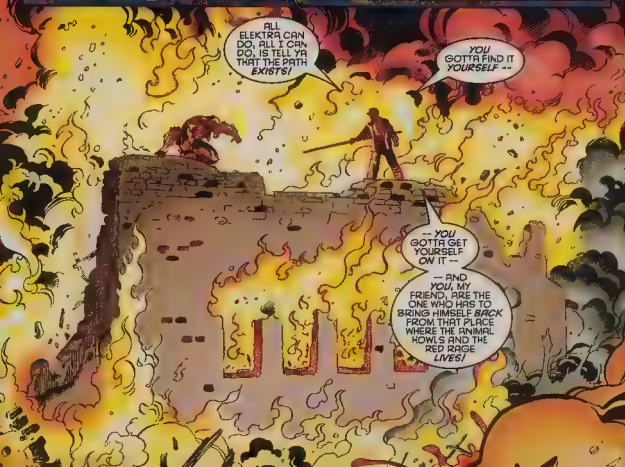
I
CAN'T PUT
YOU BACK
THE WAY YOU
USED TO
BE --

-- I
CAN'T PUT
YOUR FEET
BACK ON THE
PATH FOR
YA!



ELEKTRA
CAN'T PUT YOUR
FEET BACK ON
THE PATH FOR
YA.

ANY
MASTER,
SENSEI, GURU
OR MOTIVATIONAL
SPEAKER WHO SAYS
THEY CAN DO THAT
FOR YA IS BLOW N'
HOT AIR!



ALL
ELEKTRA CAN
DO, ALL I CAN
DO, IS TELL YA
THAT THE PATH
EXISTS!

YOU
GOTTA FIND IT
YOURSELF --

-- YOU
GOTTA GET
YOURSELF
ON IT --

-- AND
YOU, MY
FRIEND, ARE THE
ONE WHO HAS TO
BRING HIMSELF BACK
FROM THAT PLACE
WHERE THE ANIMAL
HOWLS AND THE
RED RAGE
LIVES!



HOW CAN I DO THAT?

ALL THIS WAS DONE TO ME!

I GOT NO CONTROL OVER IT!

MAGNETO PULLED THE ADAMANTUM OUTTA ME AND EVERYTHING WENT DOWNHILL FROM THERE!



WRONG!

WHEN MAGNETO TOOK THE METAL OUTTA YOU, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO GAVE UP ON KEEPIN' YOURSELF TOGETHER!



HE PUT THE FEAR IN YOU, AND IT ERODED YER SOUL, AND IT MADE YA FORGET THAT EVERY SECOND OF OUR LIVES WE GOTTA FIGHT TO KEEP FROM SLIPPIN' BACK INTO BEIN' THE ANIMALS WE REALLY WANT TO BE!



THAT'S WHAT MAKES US MEN! IT AIN'T NO GIFT!

YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS ARE GOIN' UP AGAINST A POWER YOU CANT EVEN COMPREHEND!

ONSLAUGHT'S GONNA HANG YOU ALL OUT TO DRY, UNLESS YOU GET YOUR ACTS TOGETHER --

-- AND THE ONLY WAY TO DO THAT IS TO HELP YOURSELVES!

YOU NOT ANIMAL, LOGAN, AS LONG AS YOU STRIVE TO BE BETTER THAN YOU ARE, AS LONG AS YA FOLLOW YOUR HEART!

WHAT GOOD IS ALL THAT YA JUST RAN DOWN --

-- IF I AINT GONNA LIVE THROUGH THIS HERE MESS I'M IN?



IF YA
JUMP WHERE I'M
POINTIN', YOU'LL
LIVE.



HOW
CAN I BELIEVE
YA?



YOU GOT
A CHOICE,
BOY?



A MAN'S
ALWAYS GOT A
CHOICE --

-- AND
I'M CHOOSIN'
TO TRUST
YA!



CUTTING EDGE

Wow! When we finished up issue #102, we knew Larry and Adam had turned out an absolute winner! We had no idea that we would receive such an outpouring of emotion and praise from fandom! Suffice to say, many of your letters for that issue were of the "nuff said" variety, though that did nothing to take away from the joy we knew you all felt! Read on!

Dear Cutting Edge,

I just had to write and say, I am in utter awe!!!! I've just finished re-reading issue #102 for the fourth time, and you creative people have just outdone everyone!!! This story is excellent, the art is just too cool, and I am completely moved by the story Elektra tells throughout the book. I had to write and say, "Thank you".

It has been a long time since a single issue of anything has just taken over my brain. I believe you have taken Wolverine to new heights.

Please, keep up the great work. Once again, thank you for a great issue, and for truly making Wolverine one of the best. Thanks for your time.

Sean Golden

(Address withheld by request)

Dear Cutting Edge,

When I finished "Unspoken Promises", I sat there with tears in my eyes. I'm not even sure who I was crying for. Probably myself. And I'm not sure why I was crying. Probably because I'm an idiot.

Don't ever print anymore issues like this one - you'd probably make a fan out of me, just when I had decided that no one could write Wolverine anymore.

Richard Froese

Chilliwack, British Columbia

Dear Cutting Edge,

I've been reading comics faithfully since 1983, and "Unspoken Promises" has to be one of the most artfully designed and original stories I've ever read. Mr. Hama and Mr. Kubert, you've not only outdone yourselves, you've outdone everyone else as well, and inspired me to write my first ever letter to a comic book in the process. Considering how much I disliked the feral Wolverine concept, that's quite an accomplishment.

In one issue, you've managed to change my entire perspective on this storyline - and with the appearance of Elektra, how could I possibly have any complaints? Thank you for the intimate look at Elektra's past and for such a fresh and exciting story format. Mr. Hama and Mr. Kubert, you've proven yourselves a talented team capable of terrific action, excellent characterization, and marvelous

innovations. I'm anxiously awaiting the "ninjas throwdown of epic proportions" coming nty way.

Greg Wise

New Brighton, PA

Dear Larry,

In fourteen years of reading your works (G.I. JOE #1-present), I have never experienced a more passionate and moving story than WOLVERINE #102. You are truly one of the greatest storytellers of all time. Thank you.

Malcolm Williams

(Address withheld by request)

Dear Cutting Edge,

RE:WOLVERINE #102.

Bravo! The single best issue of this title ever. This is truly great storytelling. Thank you, Larry, Adam, Dan, Joe, Richard and Bob.

Jaka Rose

Halsey, OR

Dear Edgy Ones,

Logan's Bones! This was a great issue! Elektra is a great character. Probably Marvel's most fully-realized presence. I love these kinds of stories where the pictures show one thing and the narrative tells another, but they fit like a claw in a forearm. Elektra is always interesting and this new Hulk-like Wolverine has possibilities, but I'm already starting to miss Larry's Logan voice that usually narrates the book with great phrases like "people are born into crowds, but they die alone." I guess what I'm rambling on about here is please don't make the "feral" Wolverine saga as long as the adamantium-or-no-adamantium saga. (See? If you don't give your epic cute little tag names, we will!)

Michael C. McClelland

Burbank, CA

As you know by now, Michael, Logan's "voice" has already begun to return.

Dear Cutting Edge Crew,

I've never been much of a WOLVERINE reader, but this recent Elektra storyline has gotten me pretty interested. I've never been much of a fan of Larry Hama's writing, but issue #102 has proven me wrong! It's been a long time since I've read a comic that's made me think as much as this one. Right from the beginning, I was trying to figure out who was narrating the story. At first, I thought it was Wolverine, then I quickly changed it to the perspective of Professor X. It wasn't until halfway through the book that I figured out it was none other than Elektra who was telling her story.

I knew the name Athos sounded familiar, and I felt stupid when I realized that it was the name of Elektra's bodyguard way back in DAREDEVIL #168 (good continuity reference on your part, Larry!). Anyway, at that point I just had to begin rereading the book from the beginning. I've since read it two more

times, and you know what? I got different interpretations of it every time. Trying to interpret which characters from Elektra's tale represented who in Wolverine's battle was pretty neat. I haven't read a story this mind-straining since the first few chapters of *Fall from Grace* in DAREDEVIL. Keep up the good work, Mr. Hama. I'm a convert now!

By the way, the art wasn't half bad. Actually, it was pretty awesome! Kudos to Adam Kubert and Dan Green!

Corey Myers

Camas, WA

We think we can safely speak for Larry when we say, "welcome aboard the Hama express", Corey!

Dear Cutting Edge,

I have just finished reading WOLVERINE #102 and I have to say that it is one of the best written and drawn issues I have ever seen.

Now for the Q&A. There seems to be a lot of people worried that Logan has lost his mind now that he has turned feral, yet it would have been stranger if he had just stayed the same. If you look back at issue #51, he had just lost some of his memory blocks and seemed to be going over the edge then, yet he was in control the whole time. Is what he's going through now not the same thing?

I cannot remember which issue it was in, but wasn't it discovered that Logan was a evolving, mutating mutant, so by this we can expect Logan to keep on changing to fit the environment?

So, until Logan turns into a new age vegetarian wielding crystals against bad vibes, make mine Marvel.

Joe Coakley

(Address withheld by request)

Wolverine is indeed continuing to evolve, Joe, and like all things evolutionary, he mutates in direct response to his environment (as has been evident over the last few issues). So, let's hope Logan can find a nice, peaceful environment in which he might become a peaceful, fun-loving, happy fellow... net!

next month:
WOLVERINE
AND
ELEKTRA
TAKE A
PERILOUS TRIP...
DOWN MEMORY LANE
(LIONS AND TIGERS
AND BEARS, OH MY!!!)

Design by EDWINA



C/O MARVEL COMICS GROUP
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IF YOU DON'T WANT YOUR FULL NAME AND ADDRESS PRINTED, BE SURE TO TELL US!

BEN
ASSISTANT
RAAB

BOB
CHIEF
HARRAS